

10. Moondyne Springs

This site is on a bald hill top (Military Survey 1 inch map 393 (Toodyay) 189872), eight miles north of Wooroloo across the Avon River. Near here I have found mullers and cores (W.A.M. No. A12755).

From these and other more minor observations in this area which I have made over the past years it is probable that further archaeological sites will be found in the south-west of this State. Lack of interested recorders has undoubtedly prevented such sites from being known and it is to be hoped that this article will stimulate the locating and recording of further sites. It is essential that such areas when found are disturbed as little as possible; surface finds should be reported to the Museum so that they may be recorded and implement types classified. No digging should be done without the assistance of trained excavators since irreparable damage may result and vital evidence be destroyed (cf. Baker, *W.A. Nat.*, 4, 1953: 40).

Naturalists wishing to examine sites recorded here must first obtain permission from the owners of the properties upon which they occur, since obviously the owners are desirous of having them disturbed as little as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am happy to acknowledge the assistance of the Martin Brothers and Mr. J. F. Sparkes for allowing access to the sites on their properties. I also wish to thank Dr. W. D. L. Ride for his encouragement and assistance.

LITERATURE

The terminology used throughout this paper is that given in McCarthy, F. D., Bramell, E., and Noone, H. V. V., 1946. The Stone Implements of Australia, *Mem. Aust. Mus.* Sydney, 9.

The axes mentioned in this paper will be fully described and discussed in Ride, W. D. L., The Edge-ground Axes of South-Western Australia. *W.A. Nat.* (in press).

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOUNTAIN DEVIL IN CAPTIVITY

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In an earlier article (*W.A. Nat.*, 5, 1955: 1) I described the experiences of my wife and myself in rearing the Mountain Devil (*Moloch horridus*) in captivity, and gave data on incubation periods, early growth rate and on some habits of this lizard. Since then additional observations have been made which may be placed on record.

GROWTH RATE

I gave the growth rate of a young Mountain Devil during the first 12 months as follows: at hatching, 6 cm.; at 9 months, 9.6 cm.; at 12 months, 11.5 cm. (measurements made on "Agatha," the young lizard referred to on p. 3 of my previous article).

The two young lizards of the second hatching (hatched February 1954), and also the progeny of the female we called "Florence" (p. 4), are still alive and in good condition. They have proved to be of opposite sexes.

After the first 12 months the rate of growth was found to be faster in one than in the other, the smaller one proving to be the male. Lengths at various times are given in the following table:

Date	Male	Female
March 1955	11.5 cm.	11.5 cm.
Oct. 1955	12.2 ..	12.8 ..
Dec. 1955	12.7 ..	13.1 ..
March 1956	13.5 ..	14.0 ..
Sept. 1956	13.9 ..	14.4 ..
March 1957	15.0 ..	16.1 ..
March 1958	15.7 ..	17.2 ..

From my observations there appears to be a very definite slowing up of the growth rate during the winter.

Another young *Moloch*, when found approximately a week after hatching in February, 1958, measured 6 cm. in length. In early July 1958 it was 7.2 cm.

BREEDING AGES

The male referred to in the preceding section apparently bred in the spring of 1957, namely when he was completing his third year of life. Although he was not actually seen in the act of copulation there could have been no doubt, from his behaviour, that this took place. He was again very active in pursuing the females in April 1958, on warm days.

We have seen no mating behaviour on the part of his sister, the young female, but this does not necessarily mean that no breeding took place as the lizards have not been under continuous observation.

"Florence," their parent, has not bred again since the 1954-55 season. She may now be too old. She did not acquire a new skin last autumn.

INCUBATION PERIOD

The three-year-old male just referred to mated with one of our female lizards which has been in captivity for some three years. She burrowed and laid eggs on November 18, 1957. These hatched about February 24, 25 or 26, 1958, giving an incubation period lying between 98 and 100 days, or about 14 weeks.

Incubation periods previously recorded were 90 and 128 days.

It was not possible to find out how many eggs were laid on the present occasion as the burrow site was in very loose sand and had dried out to a great extent. I excavated and sifted the material but could find no trace of any empty egg cases. At least two young ones came out, one of which was found dead near the burrow site and another picked up alive some days later. It was in a very lively condition when found in the fowl run about 50 yards or so from the hatching site.